

**GCSE**

**Religious Studies (World Religions)**

**Buddhism 1**

**Specimen Paper**

**B569**

Time: 1 hour

Candidates answer on the question paper.

**Additional materials: none**

Candidate  
Forename

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Candidate  
Surname

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Centre Number

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Candidate  
Number

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## INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the boxes above.
- Use black ink only.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Answer any **TWO** questions; you must answer all parts (a-c) of the two questions that you choose.
- Do not write in the bar codes.
- Do not write outside the box bordering each page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.

## INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks for each question is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **48**.
- Quality of written communication is assessed throughout the paper
- Should you need more space to write your answers there is an extra page at the end of the paper.
- If you need to use this extra page you must number your answers clearly.

This document consists of **8** printed pages.

Answer **TWO** questions (a, b and c parts should be answered for **each** question).

- 1 (a) Describe the concept of samsara.

[6]

- (b)** Explain how believing in kamma might affect the life of a Buddhist.

[6]

**(c)** 'The realms of rebirth in samsara are not real.'

Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Buddhism in your answer.

SPECIMEN

[12]

**Total [24]**

**[Turn over**

Blank handwriting practice paper with horizontal lines and a large, faint watermark reading "SAMPLE" diagonally across the page.

[6]

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..... [6]

(c) 'All Buddhists should celebrate festivals.'

Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Buddhism in your answer.

SPECIMEN

[12]

**[12]**

**Total [24]**

**[Turn over**

**3 (a)** Describe the Mahayana concept of the Bodhisattva.

[6]

**(b)** Explain how a Buddhist might try and develop the perfections of the Bodhisattva Path.

.....

[6]

**Paper Total [48]**

### Extra Answer Space

**Clearly label which question you are answering.**

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Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
1(a)	<p><b>Describe the concept of samsara.</b></p> <p>Candidates may respond with some of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the wheel of rebirth;</li> <li>• the six realms of existence;</li> <li>• the concept of samsara as rebirth;</li> <li>• the cycle of rebirths;</li> <li>• how rebirth is determined by kamma; characteristics determined by attitude at the moment of death.</li> </ul>	[6]
1(b)	<p><b>Explain how believing in kamma might affect the life of a Buddhist.</b></p> <p>Candidates may respond with explanations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the concept of kamma as a system of actions and consequences;</li> <li>• how believing that every action has a consequence might lead to more moral behaviour;</li> <li>• how belief in kamma might lead Buddhists to react to experiences of suffering.</li> </ul>	[6]
1(c)	<p><b>‘The realms of rebirth in samsara are not real.’</b></p> <p><b>Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Buddhism in your answer.</b></p> <p>Candidates may respond with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some Buddhists see the realms as existing in reality, and that we have no right to question this as outsiders.</li> <li>• the realms are a mythological way in which to represent psychological states, rather than physical places.</li> <li>• explore whether psychological states could be considered as real physical places, and therefore the realms could be considered to represent psychological states and yet still be real.</li> </ul>	[12]
<b>Question Total</b>		<b>[24]</b>
2(a)	<p><b>Describe how some Buddhists might celebrate Wesak.</b></p> <p>Candidates may respond with some of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• descriptions of Wesak are likely to vary according to the traditions and cultures they have studied.</li> <li>• visits to the temple or vihara;</li> <li>• the taking on of extra precepts by some of the laity;</li> <li>• offerings to monks, and the releasing of caged birds.</li> </ul> <p>Buddhists celebrate Wesak to remember the Buddha’s birth, death and enlightenment.</p>	[6]

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
2(b)	<p><b>Explain why celebrating festivals might be important to Buddhist communities.</b></p> <p>Candidates might explain their answer with reference to particular festivals they have studied. To achieve higher levels they will need to explain why the festival is important, rather than just describe what happens at the festival.</p> <p>Candidates may respond with explanations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how festivals bring the community together in shared activities; how activities during festivals remind the Buddhist community of their religious teachings.</li> </ul>	[6]
2(c)	<p><b>‘All Buddhists should celebrate festivals.’ Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Buddhism in your answer.</b></p> <p>Candidates might point to the evidence cited in part a or b to show why festivals should be celebrated by Buddhists. This evidence should be expanded and should be relevant to the question.</p> <p>Candidates may respond with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the more limited roles played by bhikkhus during festivals;</li> <li>• the isolation of forest-dwelling monks</li> <li>• as evidence that not all Buddhists view taking part in festivals as important.</li> </ul>	[12]
<b>Question Total</b>		<b>[24]</b>
3(a)	<p><b>Describe the Mahayana concept of the Bodhisattva.</b></p> <p>Candidates may respond with some of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the concept of a Bodhisattva as a being on the path to enlightenment;</li> <li>• the nature of the Bodhisattva Path and the Perfections;</li> <li>• the compassionate nature of the Bodhisattva in supporting Buddhists further behind on the path than themselves.</li> </ul>	[6]
3(b)	<p><b>Explain how a Buddhist might try and develop the perfections of the Bodhisattva Path.</b></p> <p>Candidates are not expected to list or describe all 6/10 perfections. Candidates may respond with some of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• examples to show how the perfections might be developed in daily life;</li> <li>• how the perfection of generosity could be developed through the use of offerings, for example;</li> <li>• accounts of particular Bodhisattvas.</li> </ul>	[6]

Question Number	Answer	Max Mark
3(c)	<p><b>‘There is no difference between Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism.’</b></p> <p><b>Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of view and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Buddhism in your answer.</b></p> <p>Candidates may respond with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• differences between Theravada and Mahayana beliefs and practice, for example the Bodhisattva Path, arguing that they are patently different.</li> <li>• whether the surface differences are of any real importance;</li> <li>• whether ultimately all Buddhists are aiming at the same goal.</li> <li>• Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism are both seeking enlightenment, so in this key respect are not different.</li> </ul>	[12]
Question Total		[24]
Paper Total		[48]

**Assessment Objectives Grid (includes QWC)**

<b>Question</b>	<b>AO1</b>	<b>AO2</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1(a)</b>	6		<b>6</b>
<b>1(b)</b>	6		<b>6</b>
<b>1(c)</b>		12	<b>12</b>
<b>2(a)</b>	6		<b>6</b>
<b>2(b)</b>	6		<b>6</b>
<b>2(c)</b>		12	<b>12</b>
<b>3(a)</b>	6		<b>6</b>
<b>3(b)</b>	6		<b>6</b>
<b>3(c)</b>		12	<b>12</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>48</b>

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